China was almost entirely a compound of irritation, condescension, and contempt.

The conflict was one of civilizations as well as of governments and peoples. In each of the main phases of life, economic, political, intellectual, social, and religious, Chinese and Western culture displayed striking and in some cases fundamental differences. In the close interplay of modern life, one or the other system had to give way. In the eighteenth century it had seemed for a time that Europe might be partially sinicized rather than China Europeanized. As the nineteenth century progressed it became obvious that the opposite would take place. The effect on China was accentuated by the fact that the culture of the West was itself experiencing rapid changes which threatened its own traditional bases and even its existence. Here was an Occident being rapidly enriched by the new industrial processes which had begun to appear in the eighteenth century and which were to be extensively developed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The West had discovered new ways of utilizing man's physical environment. In consequence, the structure of its own economic, social, moral, intellectual, and political life was being revolutionized. Moved by their desire for markets and raw materials and by the passion for power, and armed with the new appliances, Western peoples were rapidly mastering much of the globe. Wherever they went—whether to Africa, India, the South Seas, the Americas, Japan, or China—changes followed.

In China, in the clash of civilizations, the institutions of two thousand years were to be shaken to their foundations and many were to crumble. The political and economic organization which had proved fairly adequate for the old conditions

was quite unfitted to cope with the invasion. The Chinese looked upon the intruders as barbarians and long resisted them. However, in time, defeated in war again and again, their independence compromised, their chief cities forced to house foreign communities, and th^r land traversed by merchants and missionaries conveying new ideas, the Chinese began adopting the culture of the alien. They did so partly in self-defense—in the attempt to defeat, the conqueror with his own-weapons—and partly because they were convinced of the superiority of much that the Westerner had to offer. Whatever the motive, the result was change affecting profoundly every phase of the nation's life.